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Mr. Abbas Ali Khan :—" Is the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government aware that the Muhammadans have no objection to that resolution being given effect to ? "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" Sir, I cannot say that. The Muhammadan community is a large community and what the views of this individual or that individual member of that community are I am not prepared to say."

Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu :—" Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to say at least now after this discussion, whether he would consider the desirability of taking steps in that direction ?

(No answer.)

Travelling allowance of the local board presidents.

319 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) the districts whose local board presidents have not drawn the higher rates of travelling allowance referred to in G.O. No. 163, Finance, dated 18th February 1921, for the period 1st March 1921 to 31st March 1923 ;

(2) whether in the case of other districts the Government have directed that no local board president should be allowed to draw the higher rates of travelling allowances for the period 1st March 1921 to 31st March 1923 and the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts has accordingly requested the presidents of various local boards to recover the excess travelling allowance drawn during the period ;

(3) how the presidents of local bodies referred to in clause (2) above were permitted to draw higher rates of travelling allowance month after month for two years ; and

(4) the officer or officers responsible for such overdrawal without any objection and the action taken by the Government in regard to their right to enforce the travelling allowance rules relating to presidents ?

A.—The Government issued a general order in the matter and apparently the Examiner has taken action under that Government Order. The whole question is however under the consideration of Government.

The Ootacamund municipality.

320 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Ootacamund Municipal Council has resolved to have an elected Chairman on Rs. 500 a month ;

(b) whether the Government have passed orders on that resolution to the following effect, viz., that the Government are not prepared to pay any contribution towards the salary of the Chairman, if he is elected by the Council, but that the Government will appoint a Chairman and pay him, if the Council agrees ; and

(c) the reasons why, when the Municipal Council is willing to elect and pay its own Chairman, the Government should insist on a nominated Chairman ?

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A.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Final orders have not yet issued but alternative suggestions as in clause (*b*) have been made.

(*c*) The Council did not specifically say that it was willing to bear the entire cost of the Chairman if it were allowed to elect him.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*c*) may I ask the hon. the Minister to be good enough to say whether, if the Council is willing to bear the entire cost of paying its chairman, the Government will permit them to elect their chairman ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The question is under consideration, and the Government would have no objection to let the Council have its own way."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Sir, it is stated that it is proposed to restrict the chairmanship to engineers or people with similar special qualifications. If it is a fact, I want to know whether the Council will be given full liberty of choice ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The answer is in the negative."

Toll-gates in the North Arcot district.

321 *Q.*—Mr. M. ABDULLA GHATALA SAHIB : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that great hardship is caused to the public of the North Arcot district by the location of toll-gates at very short distances ; and

(*b*) what steps have been taken, or are proposed to be taken, to reduce the number ?

A.—(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) A report will be called for.

Medical.

Compulsory retirement of certain Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

322 *Q.*—Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) whether there is a proposal to replace Sub-Assistant Surgeons in taluk headquarter hospitals by the more highly-paid Assistant Surgeons ;

(2) whether certain Sub-Assistant Surgeons in permanent service were compulsorily retired without allowing them to enjoy the leave earned by them, while others older in years and also in service were retained ;

(3) whether the Government have permitted local bodies to have their own medical men in all the medical institutions in their charge excepting those at taluk headquarters ; and

(4) whether the Government propose to reconsider the case of such Sub-Assistant Surgeons as have been compulsorily retired ?

A.—(1) The answer is in the negative.

(2) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 165.

(3) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

(4) The answer is in the negative.